

Maryland's New Child Safety Seat Law

Effective June 30, 2008

What does the new law mean?

The new law says that a child younger than eight years (unless over 65 pounds or greater than 4 feet 9 inches tall) must ride in a correctly used child restraint system* that meets Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. The new law applies to all passenger cars, pickup trucks, SUV's and minivan vehicles in Maryland.

Is my child too big for a car seat?

Children who outgrow a car seat at around 40 pounds need to ride in a booster seat because the vehicle seat belts will not fit them well.

Does my child need a booster seat?

Take the five-step test on the back of this flyer or go to the website www.carseat.org. Or, you can attend a car seat inspection near you. There, a certified child passenger safety technician can help you secure your child properly.

How long should my child be in a booster seat?

The law requires that children ride in booster seats up to age eight (unless over 65 pounds or greater than 4 feet 9 inches tall). However, most children should ride in booster seats until about 8 to 10 years of age, or when they are big enough for lap and shoulder belts to fit properly.

*Child restraint systems include infant seats, convertible seats, forward-facing seats, booster seats, or other safety devices federally approved for use by children in motor vehicles.

In Montgomery County, call the Montgomery County Child Passenger Safety Hotline number at 240-777-2222 or for questions not answered there, the program manager at 240-777-2467.

For more information, or to get a list of upcoming seat checks in your area, call Maryland Kids in Safety Seats (KISS) at 800-370-SEAT.